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Pyongyang Proposes Drastic Reduction In Armed Forces

In an effort to open up a decisive phase in easing the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and accelerate its peaceful reunification, the DPRK government on July 23 advanced new proposals on measures for reducing critical tensions between the north and the south, including a phasedown of huge military forces of the north and the south, U.S. troops withdrawal and multinational disarmament negotiation.

The government of the DPRK, in its attention drawing statement, declared that it will effect a unilateral reduction of 100,000 Korean People's Army soldiers by the end of 1987 "to open up a practical breakthrough for the military cut down on the Korean Peninsula."

It also proposed to hold a multinational disarmament negotiation in Geneva in March 1988 with the participation of the north and the south of Korea and the U.S., under the observation of the representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Sweden, members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), to discuss practical problems concerning the proposals.

The statement said that the state of sharp military confrontation on the peninsula "can be removed only by realizing a complete disarmament."

"As long as the north and the south preserve such huge armed forces as they have today," it continued, "peace and security can not be guaranteed even if a democratic government desirous of peace and reunification is established in south Korea."

5-Point Proposal

The DPRK government in the statement proposed to reduce the armed forces of the north and the south of Korea through three stages from 1988 to 1991, and, from 1992, to less than 100,000 strong, respectively.

It also called for a phased withdrawal of the U.S. armed forces along with the phased military cut down by the north and the south.

The statement said that the U.S. should withdraw all its forces including nuclear weapons and dismantle its military bases in south Korea "when the military forces of the north and the south are reduced to 100,000."

As for the verification of the military cut down, the statement noted that the north and the south should keep each other informed of the progress and make it public to the world. The U.S. should also notify the DPRK of the progress of its troops withdrawal and make it public to the world, it said.

To confirm the military cut down in the north and the south and the withdrawal of the U.S. troops, it called for phased inspection by the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission now seated in Panmunjom to confirm the progress.

The DPRK government in the statement proposed conversion of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into a peace zone. A neutral nations inspection force formed with members of the NNSC will be stationed in that case in order to prevent a possible danger of arms conflict and safeguard the peace during the period of and after the military cut down in the north and the south.

The statement as the last item of the five-point proposal called for the holding of a multinational disarmament negotiation in Geneva in March 1988. The negotiation will be held with the participation of the north and the south of Korea and the United States as the parties concerned and the representatives of members of the NNSC as observers for the discussion of the above-mentioned matters.

As a practical breakthrough for the arms reduction, Pyongyang promised to unilaterally reduce 100,000 of its armymen by the end of 1987.

The statement of the DPRK came at a time when the huge military forces of the north and the south are confronting each other along the Military Demarcation Line and the possibility of an outbreak of nuclear war is ever increasing.

The statement accused Washington and Seoul of aggravating tension, noting that they are reinforcing up-to-date military equipment capable of launching and carrying the already deployed more than 1,000 nuclear bombs and nuclear warheads.

"We pay special attention to the fact that the United States and the south Korean authorities have decided to deploy forces of the U.S. Pacific fleet along the south Korean coastal waters and further intensify the Team Spirit joint military exercises under the pretext of the 'safe holding' of the 1988 Olympiad," the statement said.

"When our disarmament proposal is realized," it said, "the major factor of tension and threatened peace on the Korean Peninsula will be removed for good and a bright prospect opened up for the peaceful reunification of the country."

Noting that the proposal "presupposes the sincere joint efforts of the responsible parties concerned", it urged Washington and Seoul not to harbour any doubt on the proposal and to show a positive response.

It also called upon the member states of the NNSC to come out with their positive response.

'Armed Forces Not Enough To Start War'

The statement was made public at a press briefing given on the afternoon of July 23 for Korean and foreign reporters at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of People's Armed Forces of the DPRK.

Present there were Kang Sok Ju, first vice minister of foreign affairs, Li Hong Sun, major general of the Korean People's Army, and other officials concerned.

After reading out the statement of the DPRK government, First Vice Minister Kang stressed that the statement contains practical proposals of negotiating character for the north and the south of Korea, with neither side demanding anything from or forcing it on the other.

If the proposals are materialized, he said, "the danger of war would be removed and the Korean Peninsula be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone, a buffer zone."

Mr. Kang, asked about what is noteworthy in the proposal, said that the core of the proposal is to ensure an equilibrium of the armed forces of the two sides, and to ensure an equilibrium by massively reducing them, not by reinforcing them.

"In other words," he said, "it is to maintain respectively armed forces not enough to start a dangerous war on the Korean Peninsula."

He said that Pyongyang will reduce armed forces by 100,000 men by the end of 1987 even though Washington and Seoul refuse the proposal, "unless the United States and the south Korean authorities create a particular situation."

"It is not a simple matter to cut down armed forced by 100,000 men. But, we have advanced this proposal proceeding from the peace-loving policy of the government of the DPRK and the desire to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula at any cost," he stressed.

No Ground to Refuse Proposals

Answering the question by reporters as to what will be the attitude of the U.S. and the south Korean side towards the proposals, he said that there would be no ground or condition for Washington and Seoul to totally oppose them.

"The United States and the south Korean side cannot turn down our proposal because they have often called for an equilibrium of armed forces," he said, noting that the proposals are run through with the content for ensuring a mutual equilibrium of armed forces.

Pyongyang has been making constant efforts to make a breakthrough in ensuring detente on the Korean Peninsula and the peaceful reunification of the country.

As for the matters of arms reduction proposed this time, the DPRK government in September last year took a measure for mobilizing 150,000 armymen for the peaceful construction. Even in 1956 after the Korean War it reduced military forces by 80,000 men while the U.S. and the south Korean side concluded the "ROK-U.S. mutual defense treaty" and extensively reinforced its armed forces.

In recent years, with a view to relaxing the tension on the peninsula, Pyongyang has initiated various proposals including the proposal of refraining from reinforcing the army in the north and the south and the proposal of holding the tripartite talks for the conclu-

(Continued on page 8)

Key Points of Proposal

1. The north and the south cut down their armed forces through three stages from 1988 to 1991, and maintain armed forces less than 100,000 strong from 1992 respectively.

2. When the military forces of the north and the south are reduced to 100,000, the U.S. should withdraw all its forces including nuclear weapons and dismantle its military bases in south Korea.

3. The north, the south and the U.S. should keep each other informed of the progress of their military cut down. The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission must carry out inspection to confirm the north-south military cut down and the U.S. troop withdrawal.

4. The Demilitarized Zone shall be converted into a peace zone. A neutral nations inspection force is to be stationed in order to keep on the peace during the period of and after the military cut down.

5. Multinational disarmament negotiation shall be held in Geneva in March, 1988 with the participation of the north and the south of Korea and the U.S. as the parties concerned and members of the NNSC as observers for the discussion of the matters mentioned above.

To open up a practical breakthrough for the military cut down, a unilateral reduction of 100,000 Korean People's Army soldiers will be effected by the end of 1987.

USSR Endorses Nuke-Free Korea

"If a nuclear-free zone is established on the Korean Peninsula, the Soviet Union as a nuclear power would be ready, on its part, to give adequate guarantees for observing its status," a Soviet Foreign Ministry official said on July 16, the KCNA reported.

Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, speaking at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists on the day, fully endorsed the proposal by the DPRK on turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

"The turning of the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone would be both a weighty contribution to removing causes of tension in Korea and have a favourable influence on the general political climate in the Far East," he said.

On July 13, the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement clarifying Pyongyang's stand on practical measures to establish a nuclear-free, peace zone on the peninsula.

The statement, pointing out the danger of an outbreak of nuclear war, demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from south Korea.

Meanwhile, an Afghanistan-Mongolia joint communique issued at the end of the official goodwill visit to Mongolia by the government delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan supported the proposal, the KCNA reported on July 24.

The proposal advanced by Pyongyang for converting the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, the communique said, "is of weighty significance in removing the dangerous tensions from the Korean Peninsula and creating conditions for a peaceful and democratic reunification without outside interference."

"To estalblish a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia and on the Korean Peninsula is an important step to free the continent from nuclear weapons," it added.

Statement of DPRK Government on Massive Phased Military Reduction By North & South

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made public a statement dated July 23 proposing a massive phased military reduction with a view to opening up a decisive phase in easing the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and accelerating its peaceful reunification.

Follows the full text of the statement:

To prevent war and safeguard peace is the most solemn contemporary task of the mankind.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, proceeding from the noble sense of responsibility towards the cause of peace, has devoted its every sincere effort to preventing the outbreak of another war on the Korean Peninsula and turning the unstable ceasefire into a durable peace.

It is thanks to the firm stand and patient peace-loving efforts of the government of the Republic which holds peace as its intrinsic requirement that the second Korean War could be evaded in spite of multiple risky crisis since the ceasefire in Korea.

Today, huge military forces of the north and the south are sharply confronting along the Military Demarcation Line on the Korean Peninsula.

Such state of confrontation is getting further aggravated as the days go by.

The situation is at the dangerous stage where another war may be triggered off in Korea by any accidental happening. This would spread into a global thermonuclear war which evokes constant apprehensions from the world peace-loving peoples.

The present acute state of military confrontation of the Korean Peninsula should not last any longer but its earlier solution should be brought about.

With a view to relaxing the tension and ensuring a solid peace in Korea the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has initiated various proposals for detente including the proposal of refraining from reinforcing the armed forces and the arms race, the proposal of reducing the army in the north and the south to 100,000 or less respectively and the proposal of holding the tripartite talks for the conclusion of peace agreement between the DPRK and the U.S.A. and for the adoption of declaration of non-aggression between the north and the south.

Of late, in particular, it has taken an epoch-making initiative for holding the north-south high-level political and military talks to promote mutual trust between the north and the south and open up a breakthrough for providing a new phase of detente.

In order to make a practical contribution to the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula, the government of the Republic unilaterally reduced military forces by 80,000 men in 1956 after the war ceased while the U.S.A. and the south Korean side concluded the "ROK-U.S. mutual defence treaty" and extensively reinforced the military forces in south Korea, and in 1986, took a positive measure of mobilizing 150,000 armymen to the peaceful construction.

The reasonable proposals for detente and the practical measures on the part of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea enjoyed the widespread support from the world peace-loving peoples to say nothing of the entire Korean people.

However, our fair proposals and initiatives for detente and peaceful reunification have failed to receive due response from the United States and the south Korean authorities.

Today, the United States and the south Korean authorities speak outwardly of detente, but they take practically the road of further aggravating tension.

Of late, the United States had suddenly reinforced the U.S. troops stationed in south Korea, emphasizing the military strategic position of south Korea.

The United States has shipped into south Korea up-to-date military equipment capable of launching and carrying the already deployed 1,000-odd nuclear bombs and nuclear warheads.

We pay special attention to the fact that the United States and the south Korean authorities have decided to deploy forces of the U.S. Pacific fleet along the south Korean coastal waters and further intensify the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises under the pretext of the "safe holding" of the 1988 Olympiad.

The state of sharp military confontation of the Korean Peninsula can be removed only by realizing the complete disarmament.

As long as the north and the south preserve such huge armed forces as today, peace and security can not be guaranteed even if a democratic government desirous of peace and reunification is established in south Korea.

With a view to easing tension of the Korean Peninsula and opening up a decisive phase for acceleration of her peaceful reunification in keeping with the aspirations of the entire Korean people who want to live in peace for ever in a reunified territory clear of war and anxiety, the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea makes public a proposal to effect a massive phased military reduction as follows:

Firstly, the military equilibrium of the north and the south of Korea should be maintained by reducing armed forces respectively, not by increasing it.

In accordance with this principle, the north and the south must cut down their armed forces through three stages from 1988 to 1991, and they should maintain armed forces less than 100,000 strong from 1992 respectively.

Secondly, with the phased military cut down by the north and the south, the U.S. troops stationed in south Korea must be also phased out, and when the military forces of the north and the south are reduced to 100,000 the United States should withdraw all its forces including nuclear weapons and dismantle its military bases in south Korea.

Thirdly, the north and the south of Korea should keep each other informed of the progress of their military cut down and make it public to the world, and the United States should notify our side of the progress of its troops withdrawal and make it public to the world.

The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission now seated in Panmunjom must carry out phased inspection to confirm the military cut down in the north and the south of Korea and the withdrawal of the U.S. troops.

Fourthly, the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line shall be converted into a peace zone where the Neutral Nations Inspection Force is to be stationed in order to prevent the possible danger of arms conflict and keep on the peace during the period of and after the military cut down in the north and th south.

Fifthly, multinational disarmament negotiation shall be held in Geneva in March, 1988 with the participation of the north and the south of Korea and the United States as the parties concerned and the representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Sweden, members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, as observers for the discussion of such matters as reducing and withdrawing the armed forces from the Korean Peninsula and its verification, turning the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation line into a peace zone, increasing the authority of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, organizing a neutral nations inspection force and its deployment.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will effect a unilateral reduction of 100,000 Korean people's armymen by the end of 1987 to open up a practical breakthrough for the military cut down on the Korean Peninsula.

If the massive military reduction is carried out on the Korean Peninsula, the foreign military bases dismantled there and the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line turned into a peace corridor, Korea will be converted into a nuclear-free, peace zone and a buffer zone which gives no threat to anybody.

When our disarmament proposal is realized, the major factor of tension and threatened peace on the Korean Peninsula will be removed for good and a bright prospect opened up for the peaceful reunification of the country.

The materialization of our disarmament proposal will be greatly conducive to improving the situation in Asian and the Pacific regions for it conforms to the world trend towards detente and disarmament.

Our proposal presupposes the sincere joint efforts of the responsible parties concerned for the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The United States and the south Korean authorities should not harbour any doubt on our proposal designed to realize a true peace and detente on the Korean Peninsula but ponder over and show a positive response to it to meet the trend of the times.

We hope that the member states of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission that are interested in turning the ceasefire of Korea into a durable peace, too, will come out with their positive response to our peaceful proposal.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make every effort to realize complete disarmament, ensure eternal peace on the Korean Peninsula and bring earlier the independent and peaceful reunification of the country with the support and encouragement of the governments and peoples of the peace-loving countries the world over.

Vice Chairman of DPRK Olympic Commitee on Proposal of Co-hosting 24th Olympiad

The fourth joint meeting between the International Olympic Committee and Olympic committee delegates from the north and the south of Korea was held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on July 14 and 15.

After the meeting Mr. Chin Chung Guk, vice chairman of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and deputy head of the DPRK Olympic Committee delegation, was interviewed by reporters.

He said:

At the fourth joint meeting we held that in view of the proportion of the population in the north and south of Korea the games of eight events should be held in the area of our side and that matters relating to the organizing of the Olympic Games, such as the title of the Games, formation of organizing committee, opening and closing ceremonies and television rights be all solved properly to suit the actual condition where Games take place, divided in the north and the south.

We advanced concrete proposals to call the Games in our side "24th Olympic Games Pyongyang" and the Games in the south side "24th Olympic Games Seoul" with regard to the title of the Olympic Games, to form "Pyongyang Olympic Organizing Committee" in the region of our side to organize all the games, to hold the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games equally in the north and south and share television rights in a fair way.

This demand is a most reasonable and fair one based on the reality of our divided country and was made after a due consideration of the opinion of the International Olympic Committee and the south side. We have made earnest and sincere efforts to realise our co-hosting proposal.

But at the joint meeting the south side offered no proposal but obstinately persisted in its former stand to lay difficulties in the talks.

Not much time is left till Sep. 17 this year, the dateline set for the IOC to send our invitations to the national Olympic committees. The fourth joint meeting failed to yield important fruit because of the south side's insincere attitude.

In order to make the 24th Olympic Games successful to justify the expectation of the world people, the south side should have accepted our fair demand.

The question of whether the co-hosting proposal is realised or not depends entirely on the attitude of the south side.

We will continue to make all our efforts to realise the co-hosting proposal.

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The important task in enhancing the people's living standard is to satisfactorily solve the food problem by further increasing the output of grain and other agricultural products and developing fisheries and bring about a new turn in the production of mass consumption goods.

To accelerate the construction of major objects including 300,000 hectares of tideland, the Sunchon Vinalon Complex with a 100,000 ton capacity, the large-scale Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex and the grand and beautiful Kwangbok Street is one of the most important tasks for increasing the economic potential of the country and more satisfactorily solving the problem of the people's life in particular.

Our party, representing the unanimous desire of the Korean people, expresses the hope that the entire working people will set themselves the lofty goal of fulfilling the third Seven-Year Plan one and half years ahead of schedule before Apr. 15, 1992, which will be the most auspicious and significant year in the history of our country, and turn out in the endeavours to beat it.

An allout march for fulfilling the third Seven-Year Plan more than one year and a half ahead of schedule should be launched vigorously in all fields and at all units of the national economy through a general mobilization in response to the call of our party.

Economic Construction Progressing in Different Parts of Korea

The working people of Korea are determined to fulfil the third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993), the grand blueprint for accelerating the complete victory of socialism, by Apr. 15, 1992, one year and a half earlier than schedule.

Major construction projects are progressing apace in different parts of Korea, including construction of a northern railway line and the expansion project of the Tanchon Magnesia Factory.

Here are recent reports on those construction projects:

Capacity of Tanchon Magnesia Factory Expanded

The expansion of the capacity of the Tanchon Magnesia Factory is progressing in the final stage.

The large new construction objects occupying some 22 hectares look like one more gigantic factory, which consists of the kiln block and the raw material block.

The kiln block is occupied by refrigerating, crushing and sorting, and general dust-absorbing setups and products storages centering around several vertical kilns which have entered the stage of assemblying of installations, their buildings being near completion.

At the raw material block construction of the first and second crushing grounds, storages, sorting ground and wagon-upturning yards have been completed in the main.

The constructors have successfully carried out this vast project in a little more than two years. When the expansion of the Tanchon Magnesia Factory is completed with domestic efforts, technology and equipment and materials in our own way raw materials and products will be transported by remote-controlled conveyer belts and be packed by machines. A firm technological foundation will have been laid for a quick massive treatment of ores coming from the Ryongyang Mine.

Then the factory will produce a larger quantity of high-quality magnesia clinker popular on the international markets.

Construction of Northern Railway Progresses Apace

A new railway is threading its way in the northern mountainous area of Korea.

The builders of the railway finished the roadbed project over the past two years and laid rails scores of kilometers, overcoming difficult working conditions.

The tunnel builders who have set themselves the goal of completing the projects for expanding two long tunnels before the rainy season are increasing the tempo of the project 1.2 times by introducing advanced methods of work.

They carried out the tunnel expansion project at 95 percent and concreting at over 77 percent.

The railway bridge builders, using the recent fine weather conditions, are carrying out their daily quotas at 200-250 percent, hastening reinforcing bar assembling and concrete tamping.

The builders have constructed over 10 stations by vigorously pressing ahead with the construction, while giving precedence to the project of laying tracks and building railway bridges, tunnels and retaining walls.

The first stage project of the northern railway is now nearing completion.

The work to be done in the first stage is vast – cutting through 24,000 meters of tunnels, building railway bridge with a total extension of over 5,600 metres, over 226,000 metres of retaining walls and moving 10,448,000 cubic metres of earth.

When this gigantic project is finished, the transportation in the northern area will be smoothier and favourable conditions provided for developing and using rich resources in this area.

Cement Industry

The large-scale construction of major objects including the Kwangbok Street, the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and the gigantic Taechon Power Stations is making a fast progress in Korea.

Cement industry relying on rich demostic raw material resources creditably ensures the construction of these major structures which is underway on a vast scale at the same time.

Good-quality cement is massproduced at large and minor cement production bases built in different parts of the country including the modernly-equipped Sunchon Cement Complex with a 3 million-ton capacity, and the Sunghori, Haeju and Chonnaeri cement factories. Cement production is on the annual increase.

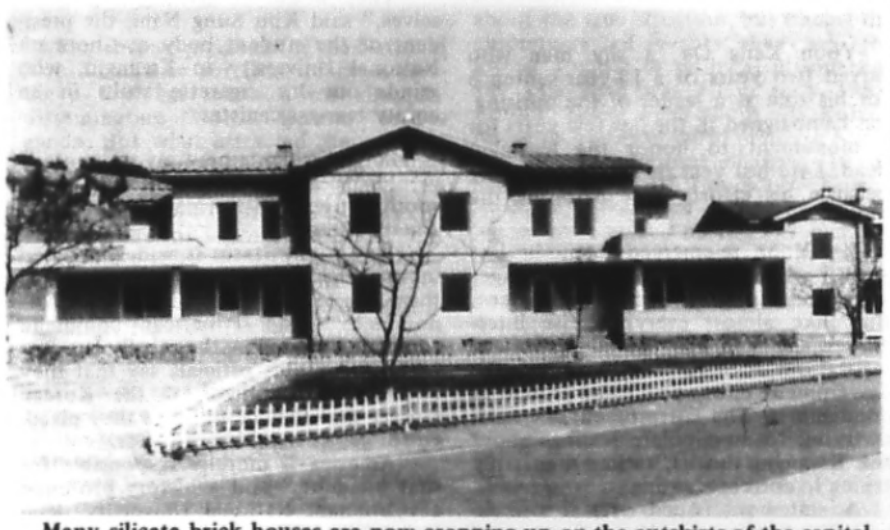
Cement output in Korea stood at 200,000-300,000 tons per annum in the postwar period. It rose to 4-4.5 million tons in the 1960s and to 7.5-8 million tons during the Six-Year Plan (1971-1976.)

In the period of the second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984) cement factories were reconstructed on an expansion basis and new ones built to boost production capacity to 12 million tons. This meant 117 times the figure in 1946.

One more kiln has recently been completed and put into operation at the February 8 Cement Complex, and the assembling of installations has begun at Sangwon Cement Factory now under construction.

During the new long-term plan large cement production bases relying on new raw materials will be built in Sariwon and Kaechon areas.

The state plans to turn out 22 million tons of cement in 1993.



Many silicate brick houses are now cropping up on the outskirts of the capital and local cities and villages in the DPRK.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex produces many rails to provide for construction of northern railway.

Silicate Brick Factories with Capacity of Billion

The Anju, Hamhung and Pihyon silicate brick factories of Korea are paying off profusely. These factories have an aggregate annual capacity of one billion bricks, which are enough to build three- or four- room flats for 40,000 or 50,000 families.

They were completed in a short time of two years.

Gigantic are their scales. The Anju Silicate Brick Factory extends more than 70,000 square metres in total floor space and nearly 300,000 square metres in plottage. Large factories of this category are found in Pihyon and Hamhung, too.

All the production processes from raw material feeding to moulding and pressing are mechanized and automated to be streamlined.

When some mixtures are added, the silicate bricks take on various colors to make the color tones of the buildings diversified.

Hardness being 2.5 times the ordinary bricks, many-storied apartment houses can be built with 30 percent less steel and cement and the construction speed by nearly trebled.

The production processes of the brick are simple and its production prospect is fairly vast, its raw material being sand and limestone richly found in the country.

Many silicate brick houses, the flat for each family occupying 120 square metres in floor space, are now cropping up in large numbers on the outskirts of the capital and local cities and villages.

Meet for General Mobilization to Carry Out 3rd 7-Yr. Plan Ahead of Schedule Held in Pyongyang

A meeting for general mobilization to carry out the third Seven-Year Plan was held on July 2-4 in Pyonyang, with more than 6,000 attendants.

The meeting discussed tasks to carry out the new long-term plan (the third Seven-Year Plan) ahead of schedule.

When the third Seven-Year Plan is fulfilled, the foundation of the socialist independent national economy will be further consolidated and a decisive advance be made in laying material and technical foundations for a completely triumphant socialist society, a classless society.

As a result, the economic power of the DPRK will markedly increase and the lofty plan of the party and the leader to more satisfactorily solve the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people will be successfully realized.

The following is a gist of a report made by Secretary Yon Hyong Muk of the CC of the WPK at the meeting:

All industrial branches have made a rapid development and their independence and Juche character have been further increased during the second Seven-Year Plan thanks to the devoted endeavours of our working class.

Our industrial output increased 2.2 times in the period from 1978 to 1984, at a high rate of 12.2 percent on an annual average.

During the plan period a remarkable progress has been made in the development of agriculture, too.

For the complete victory of socialism it is necessary to powerfully accelerate socialist economic construction and an immediate important task in this is to successfully fulfil the third Seven-Year Plan.

President Kim Il Sung said:

"The basic task of the third Seven-Year Plan is to continue to press ahead with the Juche-orientation, modernization and scientization of the national economy and lay solid material and technical foundations for the complete victory of socialism".

During the third Seven-Year Plan the ten long-range objectives of socialist economic construction set by the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will be attained and the total industrial output will increase 1.9 times and agricultural output 1.4 times at least.

At the end of the third Seven-Year Plan period, Korea will annually produce 100,000 million kWh of electricity, 120 million tons of coal, 10 million tons of steel, 1.7 million tons of non-ferrous metal, 22 million tons of cement, 7.2 million tons of chemical fertilizer, 1,500 million metres of textiles, 11 million tons of seafood and 15 million tons of grain. And it will reclaim 300,000 hectares of tideland during the period.

When these targets are attained, Korea will reach or go beyond the level of the world's advanced countries in the per capita output of major industrial goods.

The third Seven-Year Plan envisages lifting the country's scientific and technological level to the world's level in a short time by directing enormous efforts to the development of science and technology.

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Demos & Rallies for Release of Pol. Prisoners

About 800 people, including college students, held a rally at the Jongje-dong Cathedral in northwestern Seoul, demanding the release of "all prisoners of conscience," The Korea Herald reported on July 19.

In the rally, sponsored by Mintongryon, or the United Minjung Movement for Unification and Democracy, participants adopted a resolution calling for the release of all political prisoners and an immediate end to the police search for dissidents on wanted list, the paper said.

The resolution said the "process for national democratization should begin only after all citizens become free."

On the same day, about 500 people including family members of political prisoners and students staged a demonstration in a street near the Myongdong Cathedral in downtown Seoul, demanding the release of all political prisoners, the Japanese daily Akahata reported on July 18.

Kim Hyun Kyiu, floor leader of the major opposition Reunification Democratic Party, and Mok Yo Sang, chairman of the RDP Human Rights Committee, on July 20 called on Justice Minister Chung Hae Chang to present the same demand.

They reiterated their party's earlier demand that the government should release the remaining political prisoners and stop search for those sought by police for political reason as soon as possible, The Korean Times said on July 21.

About 500 demonstrators in Seoul demand the release of all political prisoners. (Reuter-Sun)

Police Beat Worker To Death

The opposition Reunification Democratic Party and 10 dissident groups on July 18 revealed that police investigators in Seoul beat a worker to death and demanded that those involved in the case to be punished, according to The Korea Herald dated July 19.

In a meeting held at the office of the Korean National Council for Churches located in downtown Seoul, the party officials and group members claimed that Kim Sang Won, a painter, died in May after being beaten by police investigators for his alleged anti-government actions.

The participants in the meeting called on authorities to publicize full details of his death and demanded that those involved in the brutality be located and punished including the then chief of Yongdungpo Police Station to which the police investigators were assigned.

According to members of Kim's family, he died of serious injuries incurred as a result of police brutality after he was led away for an anti-government protest on Feb. 10. Kim was moved with five teeth broken and cerebral contusion and severe bruises all over his body to Yungdungpo Municipal Hospital from the police station one day after he was taken away by police. Kim died at the hospital on May 26 where he had been receiving treatment for 76 days.

Police earlier announced that Kim, a vagrant, died of an illness result from wandering for a long period of time.

The 10 organizations included the National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution and the Democratic Council for Families of Arrested People.

Journalists Call for Freedom of Press

Forty-four staff reporters of the Korea Herald on July 21 threatened to go on strike if the newspaper management did not meet their demands for fair reporting and higher pay within 24 hours, according to a UPI-Kyodo report from Seoul, quoted in The Japan Times dated July 23.

They also demanded the resignation of managers who had contributed to the enforcement of government press curbs.

"We have long been haunted by an acute sense of shame for our own failure to properly report the truth," the 44 reporters said in a statement.

"This unhappy situation is primarily attributable to the government's extreme control and encroachment upon the freedom of the press," the statement added.

Earlier on July 12, members of "Panguhoe", a society of south Korean radio men of medium standing demanded a revision of the "broadcasting relation act."

In a paper submitted to the authorities concerned, they demand that they remove their interference and called upon all radio men to participate in the establishment of a democratic broadcasting committee.

Meanwhile, the Journalist Association of Korea on July 17 issued a statement calling for the freedom of the press for the realization of "true" democracy, according to a report of The Korea Times dated July 18.

The association of reporters from newspaper and broadcasting companies also gave enthusiastic support for the various manifestos and statements calling for democratization issued by its members recently, the paper said.

In Kwangju, Rage and New Cynicism: NYT

Seven years have passed since the Kwangju incident occurred in May 1980. Mr. Nicholas D. Kristof, special correspondent of The New York Times, recently went there.

Here is his report from the spot, where anger at south Korean politics still smolders in many homes, in the July 6 issue of The New York Times:

KWANGJU, south Korea, July 5 – Seven years have passed since his eldest son was killed by the police, but Chun Kae Ryang is not the type to forgive and forget.

Mr. Chun's son, a 17-year-old high school student, was one of at least 191 people, and perhaps many times that number, killed as the police quelled an insurrection in this southwestern city in May 1980.

As they died, a new generation of radicals was born, for no incident in the nation's recent history has so antagonized opponents of the Government as the Kwangju massacre.

With uncharacteristic humility, the Government tried last week to ease that antagonism by proposing some kind of reparations for the killings. Officials said this could include payments to bereaved families or a monument to the dead.

'A Scheme to Win Popularity'

"They are not sincere," Mr. Chun snorted as he sat cross-legged on the floor of his modest home. "This is just a scheme to win popularity. I would like to see them put on trial by the next government."

A similar anger seethes in many homes in Kwangju. It is a testimony to the level of distrust in south Korean politics that the poison in the air may actually have increased after the peace offering.

More important, the poor reception have to the suggestion of reparations illustrates the pitfalls facing the policy of national reconciliation that the Government began last week, centering on the promise of direct elections for the next president.

Politics here is often described not as the art of compromise but as a blend of obstinacy and self-righteousness, on all sides. This gulf of distrust and bitterness is seldom so vast as in discussions of the Kwangju incident.

Toll Put as High as 2,000

The episode began in May 1980 with growing student demonstrations that lasted a little more than a week, and resulted briefly in armed demonstrators controlling the city. But the police and the armed forces responded with guns blazing, and the insurrection was bloodily crushed.

According to the official account, 191 people died. But dissidents in Kwangju often put the figure at about 2,000, and various foreign investigators from religious and human rights organizations have put the number at 600 or more.

The incident has been an immense embarrassment to the Government, and perhaps more than anything else it radicalized university students around the country.

One opinion poll at Seoul National University last year asked students to identify the greatest tragedy in Korean history since 1945. The professors who designed the poll expected the answer to be the Korean War, but the students overwhelmingly named the Kwangju incident.

Criticism of Reparations

Yoon Kang Ok, a shy man who served two years of a 12-year sentence for his role as a leader of the uprising, has campaigned in the last few years for a monument to honor the Kwangju dead. Late last year he went into hiding because his efforts were irritating the police.

Mr. Yoon re-emerged in public last week, assuming that it is no longer dangerous to press for a monument. But, like almost everyone else interviewed, he regarded the suggestion of reparations not as a reason to thank the Government but as a renewed ground to condemn it. The Government, he said, is trying to mainipulate feelings about the Kwangju deaths, rather than truly trying to correct a wrong.

A statement issued over the weekend by family members of some of those killed in the massacre suggests that agreement with the Government on reparation terms is unlikely. The statement calls for inserting a clause in the Constitution hailing the spirit of the insurrection. It also demands a full and independent investigation into the events of May 1980.

"This is not the time to talk of reparations, but to investigate what happened," said a high school teacher who is active in the opposition, Park Sok My.

'Investigating Themselves'

But Mr. Park and others say that a proper investigation is possible only under a new government.

"They would be investigating themselves," said Kim Sung Nam, the president of the student body at Chonnam National University in Kwangju, who grinds out his cigarette stubs in an empty tear-gas canister.

Many dissidents here say an apology would be appropriate not only from south Korea's Government but from America's as well.

The United States is widely blamed in opposition circles for complicity in the killings, because Korean forces nominally under American command took part in quelling the rebellion.

United States officials say that they had no real control of the Korean troops, and that in any case they pleaded for gentle handling of the crisis.

"America is morally responsible for that incident," said a history professor at Chonnam National University, Kim Dong Won. "So America must apologize."

Demands for Basic Labor Rights Mount

Police said about 100 labor disputes had occurred since the beginning of this month, according to a Reuter-Kyodo report from Seoul.

An estimated 500 former workers and members of 17 labor organizations held a rally in Seoul on July 19, demanding a full guarantee of basic labor rights, The Korea Herald reported on July 21.

During the rally at the Heungsadan Building in Tongsung-dong in Chongnogu, the participants demanded that the new constitution do not include a clause restricting the basic labor rights, the paper reported.

They also called for clauses in the new constitution guaranteeing the implementation of a minimum wage system and workers' right to participate in management.

The ralliers adopted a resolution calling for the guarantee of basic labor rights including collective bargaining, full compensation for industrial disasters and the release of all "prisoners of consciense."

About 500 people who were unable to enter the building started an outdoor rally on the street in front of the building around 7:30 p.m., according to the paper.

Meanwhile, about 600 miners and their family members of the Hanbo Coal Mining Co., in Taebek, 160 kilometers east of Seoul, on July 20 called a strike, demanding a wage increase and improvement welfare.

The coal miners on July 21 took control of a three-way intersection at Taebek, blocking traffic to several nearby coal mines, according to an AP report from Seoul.

The operation of the coal mining company with about 700 employees was completely paralized due to the strike, The Korea Times said on July 22.

Earlier on July 18, the Federation of Korea Trade Unions decided to form a special committee to strengthen labor organizations and their positions in major industries and to demand amendments to labor-related laws, according to The Korea Times on July 19.

According to secretary-general Min Yo Ki of the FKTU, the special committee will be composed of FKTU officials and senior members of 16 major industrial labor unions.

Min pointed out that out of the 8 million laborers south Korean workers less than 1 million are affiliated with labor unions and the rate of organized labor unions to total laborers is only 13 percent.

The special committee will devote itself to expanding the organization of new labor unions with the aim of hiking the rate of 30 percent, he said.

The management of large businesses will place obstacles in the way of its increased efforts to organize the unorganized unions in the days to come, he went on.

When and if big businesses continue obstructing its efforts for a trade union organization the FKTU will launch effective countermeasures including launching a campaign to boycott commodities manufactured by the makers concerned, he declared.

Prisoners of The Past (1)

John Mcbeth, a staff reporter of Far Eastern Economic Review, a Hong Kong based weekly magazine, carried an article, "Prisoners of the Past" in its July 30 issue on the remaining political prisoners who were excluded from recent amnesties, focussing on the background of their arrest.

Following is the full text of the report:

Once every month, In Jae Keun, 35, boards an express bus in the South Korean capital for the tiring 10-hour round-trip journey to the southeastern city of Kyongju, a favoured destination for tourists anxious to see the historic seat of the 7th century Unified Shilla Kingdom. There, for a brief half-hour or so, she is permitted to visit the local prison and talk through the iron bars to Inmate No. 125 – her husband.

A shadow of the man she married more than a decade ago and by whom she has two children, Kim Keun Tae, 41, is one of South Korea's best known political prisoners. He is also one of many who the government refused to include in the recent mass prisoner release because he falls into the category of those who have been part of or have given support to so-called anti-state organizations.

The former president of the National Youth Alliance for Democracy is serving a five-year sentence for allegedly disseminating North Korean propaganda. But what attracted the most international attention was Kim's lurid testimony during his 1985 trial in the Seoul District Court in which he claimed he was beaten and underwent agonising electric torture over a 16-day period – not because he refused to confess, but because it was planned from the start. The torture, he said, "brought me within the shadow of death."

His wife says he still suffers from the after-effects of the torture. "He suffers all the time from headaches and indigestion and most of the time he can only eat soup," she told the REVIEW. He also suffers from internal bleeding, she claims. A doctor visits the jail once a week, but so far the government has ignored her repeated requests for improved medical assistance.

In Jae Keun is general affairs chairman of Minjahyop, a 300-strong association which represents the relatives of more than 80% of South Korea's political prisoners. Working in a dingy sixth-floor office in Seoul's Chunggu district, the group has made its presence felt with politicians on both sides of the political fence. Right now, it is pressing the opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) not to enter into constitutional talks until after all political prisoners are released.

Kim Keun Tae is the only political prisoner at Kyongju. The rest are spread out through 35 other facilities across the country, with many concentrated in Seoul's Sodaemun and Yongdongpo detention centres. Government officials claim there are slightly more than 200 prisoners serving time for politically related offences, and another 400 going through the court system, most of whom are likely to be released. But the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) counts 900 among the total number, or 300 above the official figure.

Diplomats with a human-rights brief admits they are as confused as anyone about the true situation, but tracing the chronology of events they say the lowest number of political prisoners at any one time was 80 in early 1985. Among them were about 40 Korean residents of Japan jailed in South Korea on subversion-related charges, 16 alleged members of the South Korean National Liberation Front, most of whom were picked up in 1979, and five South Koreans accused of belonging to the Unification Revolutionary Party and sentenced to life imprisonment in the late 1969s.

The number began to increase however in May of that year when 73 students took over the US Information Service (USIS) building in downtown Seoul. Twenty of those stood trial and were sentenced to prison terms, including Han Yun Kyong, leader of the newly emergent Samintu activist group.

Over the next year, the political-prisoner population swelled to about 700 as police cracked down on Samintu, a student body which was far less radical than those which have surfaced in the past year or so but which caused considerable alarm in government circles at the time because of its ideological slant.

The next sharp increase in arrests came in May 1986 following riots in the port city of Inchon. This time, police attention focused on Mintongnyon, the 30,000-strong umbrella organization for a collection of dissident religious and worker groups, and on two new and decidedly more radical student groups, Chamintu and Minmintu.

In August 1986, the NCCK estimated there were 1,200 activists in custody, which diplomats regarded them as an accurate figure, and by December the number had risen to between 1,800 and 2,000. What caused some confusion in the intervening period, however, was the unannounced release of inmates and the difficulties involved in generally keeping track of the shifting prison population. In several instances, for example, diplomats and journalists only became aware that certain people had been freed when they ran into them on the street.

(To be continued)

Students Protest Death of Farmer

About 40 students from Inha University and Sacred Heart College have been on a sit-in protest in a Catholic church since July 20 in protest over the death of a farmer, according to a report of The Korean Times dated July 23.

The farmer, identified as Kwon Young Gyu, 27, who lived in Changyang-myon, Ansong-gun, Kyonggi-do, committed suicide on July 18 by drinking poisonous farm chemicals in protest of local administration's intervention that caused him to provide accomodation to the students, it said.

The students came to the provincial village to render labor services during summer vacation, the paper went on.

According to the protesting students, the farmer took his own life in despair as the local administration prevented him from providing accommodation for the students in a hut which he had rented for farming, the paper added.

As a result of the attack, students claimed her facial bone was cracked and some of her teeth broken, the paper added.

Mil. Officer Threatens Kim Dae Jung

Pak Hui Do, chief of general staff of the south Korean army, said if Kim Dae Jung runs for the next president, an "unhappy event" may happen, according to the Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun on July 20.

He made the comment at an unofficial press conference he had with a few of south Korean reporters ten days ago, the paper said.

CPD to Probe Demo. Deaths

The Council for the Promotion of Democracy, co-chaired by Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam on July 20 decided to form an independent investigation committee to probe into "those who lost their lives or sustained injuries in the course of the democratization struggle", The Korea Times reported on July 21.

The CPD is also studying the possibility of holding a joint memorial service for those who died in the 1980 Kwangju Uprising, according to the paper.

The paper said the decision was made at a regular meeting on the day.

The special investigation group will be set up, independency of the major opposition Reunification Democratic Party, the paper reported.

The 1,500 members of the council will participate in a summer camp early next month to consolidate their unity, it added.

Cheju Students Protest Facial Injury

Seven students from Cheju National University on July 16 staged an overnight sit-in struggle at the Korea Christian Building in downtown Seoul, after a student from their school was seriously injured by a stone thrown by a riot policeman during a recent street demonstration in Cheju, The Korea Herald said on July 18.

They visited the Korean National Council of Churches' Human rights Committee in the building around 6 p.m. on July 16 and held the overnight sit-in, demanding an official police apology, the paper reported.

The students also insisted that the police officer in charge of the riot police men during the demonstration at the Tongmun Rotary of the city on July 11 be punished.

According to the students, Kim Yun Sam, a student of the university, suffered serious facial injuries when she was hit in the right eye by a stone allegedly hurled by a riot policeman during the demonstration, the paper said.

Lawyers Demand Reinvestigation of "Puchon Sex Torture Scandal"

Lawyers for the former college student involved in the "Puchon sex torture scandal" recently renewed their demands for an investigation into the case, The Korea Herald reported on July 18.

According to the paper, lawyers for Kwon In Suk, a former Seoul National University senior, are demanding that Moon Gui Dong, a former policeman assigned to the Puchon Police Station, be tried and punished "for sexually violating" the young woman during an interrogation session in June of last year.

Kwon figured at the center of a national controversy when police admitted that she had been sexually molested during interrogation.

Tour Information for DPRK (1)

—Pyongyang City in Park—

Even though your knowledge of Korea may be limited, you will probably have heard of "Pyongyang" several times.

Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea), serves as the political, economic and cultural centre of the country. Geographically speaking, it is also the largest city with an area of 2,629.4 square kilometres and a population of 2 million. The area is drained by the River Taedong which flows into the West Sea forming wide plains which extend along both of its banks. In fact, Pyongyang means "flat land."

Since ancient times it has been regarded as an excellent place to live because of its harmonious blend of hills, streams, fields and crags and its comfortable climate. The average annual temperature is 9.7°C and the average annual precipitation is 1,053 mm.

Before the liberation from Japanese colonial rule in 1945, it was a very bleak and backward place. It was a disorderly city with widespread poverty and hunger.

During the Korean War (1950–1953) Pyongyang was totally reduced to ashes. More than 1,400 bombing raids were targeted on the city and over 428,000 bombs showered on it.

The modern city that has since risen from the ashes is a testament to the determination of the Korean people to creating a beautiful modern city. Over the years they have worked steadily towards making the new Pyongyang a city they can be proud of. Their efforts have obviously paid off because nowadays the city has been called "a city in a park" by visitors.

Pyongyang's unique features are reflected in its wide avenues which radiate out from the city centre to the outskirts, flanked by imaginatively designed buildings complimented by artistic sculptures, murals and fountains.

Visitors to the city are offered a multiplicity of spectacular monuments and museums which include Mangyongdae, the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung, the Tower of Juche, the Korean Revolutionary Museum and the Arch of Triumph, to name but a few. There are also numerous large and small rest and recreation centres such as, Mangyongdae Fun Fair, Taesongsan Pleasure Park, Moranbong Park and Potonggang Recreation Ground. All have been built and laid out with the foreign tourist in mind as well.

Other highly recommendable sights in Pyongyang for the foreign turists are the Korean Central History Museum, the Korean Art Gallery and Mt. Taesong.

The Korean Central History Museum to north of Kim Il Sung Square has a fine display of historic relics and visual materials helpful in understanding the Korean people's struggle and achievements.

In the Korean Art Gallery which is situated to the south of Kim Il Sung Square, there is an excellent display of old paintings, prints, sculptures, embroiders and modern day handicrafts.

As for Mt. Taesong, it has been associated with the 1,500-year long history of Pyongyang. It abounds in historic relics which include the remains of forts and the sites of the Anhak Palace, which was prominent during the Koguryo period (early first century B.C.-668 A.D.).

Levels of water, air and soil pollution are now well below international standards. Today, Pyongyang is not only a beautiful city but a healthy one.

After a busy day sightseeing the visitor will want to rest and relax at some of the capital's hotels, health centres and restuaurants. For this purpose the Changgwang Health Complex and Chongryu Restaurant are highly recommended. The health centre stands by the Potong River and comprises bath houses, swimming pools, a hairdresser and a beauty salon. Many foreign tourists have already made use of the centre. The Chongryu Restaurant is a massive modern restaurant with 1,000 indoor and 600 outdoor seats. More than 100 different dishes are offered and guests have the option of roasting or boiling their food at the table, Korean style.

A host of delights await the visitor to the DPRK and Pyongyang, is a must for any itinerary.

DPRK Vocalist Places 2nd at Int'l Vocal Music Contests in Italy

Li Yong Uk, vocalist of the Mansudae Art Troup of Korea, finished second at the 25th International Vocal Music Contests held in Enna, Italy, from July 7 to 10.

He emerged second through three eliminations by doing full justice to his rich voice.

An Sang Taek Street, a newly built street at the foot of Moran Hill in Pyongyang.

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

Foreign Dels. To Pyongyang. (July 2–23)

JULY 2

* A delegation of the Headquarters of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace headed by G. Lubsantseren, secretary general of the ABCP.
* Panos Panayotunis, secretary general of the Greek Writers Society and his entourage.

JULY 3

* A friendship visiting group of the Communist Party of China headed by Liu Shusheng, alternate member of the CPC Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee.
* A delegation of the All China Journalist Association headed by Zhang Fan, executive member of the association and vice chairman of the China News Service Council.
* A delegation of the Chinese Dancers' Association headed by Zha Lie, vice chairman of the association.

JULY 6

* A delegation of the State Planning Committee of the Soviet Union headed by Deputy Director of a department of the Committee Aleksei Ginzburg.
* A delegation of Moscow City management officials headed by Director of a department of the General Bureau of the Moscow City Management Anatoli Semyonov.
* A delegation of the Academy of Science of Poland headed by academician Zdzislaw Kaczmarek, its secretary.
* A delegation of the Swedish Export Credit Guarantee Board headed by Director General Ragner Sohlman.

JULY 7

* A Soviet railway delegation headed by Edvard Lenba, vice director of the Far East Railway Management Bureau of the USSR.
* A delegation of the Jilin Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by its Deputy Secretary Wang Zhongniu.

JULY 9

* A scholars delegation for the study of the Juche idea of Costa Rica headed by Rose Marie Luis Bravo, secretary general of the National University of Costa Rica.
* A delegation of the Central University of Venezuela for the study of the Juche idea.
* A delegation of the Lenin Young Communist League of the Soviet Union.
* A Sakhalin regional economic and trade delegation headed by Groshva Galina Mikhailovna, vice chairman of the Executive Committee of the Sakhalin Regional Soviet of People's Deputies of the Soviet Union.
* A Jilin Provincial friendship delegation of China headed by Xin Zheng, vice chairman of the Jilin Provincial People's Political Consultative Conference of China.

JULY 16

* A delegation of the Socialist Party of Australia headed by its General Secretary Peter Symon.

JULY 20

* An interflung friendship delegation headed by Klaus Henkens, vice minister of transport and general director of "Interflug" of the German Democratic Republic.
* A delegation of the Soviet Journalists Union.
* Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, member of Parliament of the Islamic of Pakistan.

JULY 22

* A delegation of the National Youth Organizing Commission of Ghana headed by Chairman Mowbray Elliot.
* A delegation of the All-Hokkaido Council of Trade Unions of Japan headed by its Chairman Noboru Morio.

JULY 23

* A delegation of Aden University of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen headed by its President Mohamad Saeed Al-Amoudi.
* Professors of Padova and Firenze universities of Italy and their parties.

(KCNA)

Friendship Visiting Group of JSP Welcomed in DPRK

A friendship visiting group of the Japan Socialist Party arrived in Wonsan, the DPRK on July 22 by Samjiyon, a DPRK passenger ship.

The visiting group headed by Tanabe Makoto, ex-general secretary of the Japan Socialist Party and a member of the House of Representatives, consists of 331 members from all parts of Japan.

The friendship visiting program by the Japan Socialist Party was cosponsored by the JSP and the Workers' Party of Korea and aims to strengthen and promote the friendly relations of both parties.

This is the first time the JSP organized and sent such a large visiting group to the DPRK since its formation. The visiting group plans to stay in the DPRK for about a week, and visit Pyongyang, Panmunjom, Mt. Kumgang, etc.

The visiting group was welcomed in Wonsan by Kim U Jong, vice director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Friendship Association for the Promotion of Korea-Japan Amity, other officials concerned and citizens of Wonsan.

On July 22 the Central Committee of th WPK gave a reception for the friendship visiting group in Pyongyang.

Vice Director Kim U Jong spoke at the reception and appreciated the Japan Socialist Party, saying that the JSP has made all efforts for Japan's peace, democracy, disarmament, neutrality and vital rights of the people and its striving to establish a nuclear-free, peace zone in the Northeast Asia.

Mr. Tanabe Makoto, head of the delegation spoke next. He emphasized that the visit of the delegation to the DPRK would contribute to normalizing Japan-Korea relations and mark a new occasion in further developing solidarity between the JSP and the WPK.

The friendship visiting group left Niigata, Japan earlier on July 20.

Friendly ties between the WPK and the JSP have long traditions. JSP chairmen such as the late Narita Tomomi, Asukata Ichio and Ishibashi Seiji visited the DPRK several times.

In the light of the necessity to prevent a nuclear war and preserve the peace of Asia and the rest of the world, the WPK and the JSP jointly published a statement on establishing a nuclear-free peace zone in the Northeast Asia in March 1981, when the then Chairman Asukata Ichio visited the DPRK.

The JSP has supported the three-way talks presented by the DPRK to ease tension on the peninsula.

Ship of Asian Peace of Japan Visits Pyongyang

—Long Separated Japanese Families Reunited in Pyongyang—

Fujii Masako (right) is reunited with her daughter in Pyongyang after 43-year of separation.

The "Ship of Asian Peace" of Japan came back to Hakata Port, Japan on July 17, after successfully concluding its 13-day peace voyage to the DPRK, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

The voyage was realized on the initiative of three Japanese celebrities–Iwai Akira, chairman of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea; Utsunomiya Tokuma, member of the House of Councillors; and Oda Makoto, a writer.

The ship was boarded by some 200 Japanese from broad segments.

The voyage aimed to unite the peoples of four countries under the slogans of solidarity, opposition to war, nonaggression and peace.

The first voyage took place in 1985. The present voyage was the third in the series.

The Japanese delegation was formed irrespective of ideological differences and political beliefs and included workers, scholars, doctors, students and housewives.

The "Asian Peace Ship" visited the DPRK from July 9 to 12. The peace ship arrived on July 9 at Wonsan Port, where the visiting group headed by Iwai Akira was welcomed by Vice Chairman Pyon Sung Dok of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, other officials and Wonsan citizens.

On July 11 members of the visiting group held a solidarity meeting for the peaceful reunification of Korea in Kaesong, a city near the Military Demarcation Line.

Prior to the meeting, they held a march in Kaesong for denuclearization, peace and Korea's reunification.

Highlighting their visit to the DPRK was the impressive reunion of long-separated Japanese families in Pyongyang.

Among the visiting group were 13 families of which family members were living in the DPRK.

They included Fujii Masako, 84, from Fukuoka; Yamashita Saburo, 59, from Kagawa; Iida Yoshiko, 86, from Nagano; and Kumagai Tomiko 56 from Aichi.

On July 10 these 13 families met their daughters, brothers and sisters or relatives. Fujii Masako who came to the DPRK accompanied by her nephew and his wife met her daughter after 43-year of separation at the Koryo Hotel in downtown Pyongyang.

Her daughter O Jong Sun left Japan for China in 1944 where she married a Korean. After the liberation of Korea, she came to the DPRK together with her husband.

Mrs. O is now working as a leading staff member of the accounting section of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex. Mrs. O's daughter graduated the Pyongyang Medical College and is now working as a doctor at the Potonggang District Hospital.

Listening to what her daughter said, 84-year-old Fujii Masako expressed her satisfaction over her reunion with her daughter and thanked the measure taken by the DPRK.

On the other hand, Mrs. Kuwayama Reiko, 59, from Mie Prefecture, visited her mother's tomb.

Last year eight members of five Japanese families visited the DPRK by a peace ship and met their families and relatives.

Canada-resident Korean Pianist Holds Recital in Pyongyang

A piano recital of Chon In Song, a Canada-resident Korean, was held at the music hall of the Pyongyang Music and Dance University July 17 under the sponsorship of the Yun I Sang Music Institute.

The recital was appreciated by Choe Dok Sin, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; Kim Chang Guk, vice minister of culture and art; Chang Bong Jun, general secretary of the Korean Committee for Aiding Overseas Compatriots; and other officials concerned, musical experts in the city, and teachers and students of the music and dance university.

The audience also included a delegation of the One Korea Movement headed by its President Yang Un Sik staying in the DPRK.

Chon In Song is a talented musician honored with first prize at several international music contests.

His program included Beethoven's Pianoforte Sonata in E Major (op.109) and Chopin's Fantasia in F Minor (op. 49) and Nocturne in D Flat Major (op. 27).

Del. of Korean Women Here Attends World Congress of Women Held in Moscow

The World Congress of Women "Toward 2000 – Without Nuclear Weapons, for Peace, Equality, Development" was held in Moscow from June 23rd to 27th, attended by some 3,000 delegates from 154 countries and international organizations throughout the world.

The World Congress of Women "Toward 2000 – Without Nuclear Weapons, for Peace, Equality, Development" was held in Moscow, the Soviet Union, from June 23rd to 27th.

The congress was attended by about 3,000 from 800 organizations in 154 countries throughout the world. Among the participants were representatives from 78 international non-governmental organizations and 15 U.N. organizations.

The delegation of the Korean Democratic Women's Union in Japan participated in the congress together with the representatives of the DPRK and south Korean women.

The congress proceeded in eight commissions and three centers, together with opening and closing plenary session.

At the opening plenary session, the congress heard General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev deliver a speech to welcome the attendants. He mentioned in his speech a series of peace initiatives taken by his government and underscored the necessity to take practical steps for disarmament, while touching upon the peacemaking role of the women.

The delegation members of the Korean Democratic Women's Union in Japan made speeches in the first and fifth commissions, where the questions of peace and disarmament and of struggle for national liberation, independence and self-determination were discussed, respectively.

Their speeches were sympathetically received by the attendants of the commissions.

The characteristic points of the congress was the attendance of women with various social backgrounds holding differing views and political convictions, outstanding public figures, members of parliament, scientists, artists, trade union women and religious women throughout the world.

The commissions and centers dealt with varied topics such as peace and disarmament, development and human rights, and so forth.

Through the congress women exchanged views on the issues they face at regional or international levels and deepened mutual understanding. The participants firmly committed to unite and continue campaigns for the progress of humanity and peace of the world.

The World Congress was the biggest women's event since the UN World Conference (1985) and the NGO Forum '85 in Nairobi.

A great deal of attention was paid to the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies adopted by the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women.

After the World Congress of Women the 9th Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation was held on June 28 and 29.

Participants Endorses Peace & Reunion of Korea

Four hundred sixty-eight representatives of 103 countries who had attended the World Women's Congress and the 9th Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation held in Moscow from June 23 to 29 participated in the international signature campaign demanding the peace and reunification of Korea.

Among them were Frieda Brown, president, and Miriam Vire Tuominen, general secretary, of the WIDF, Anne Picard, president of the International League of Women for Peace and Freedom, Vice President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana Viola Burnham, Minister of Community Development, Culture, Youth and Sports of Tanzania Fatma S. Mali, Minister of Revolutionary Culture and Art of Madagascar Gisele Rabesahala, Minister of the Government of Lesotho Anna M. Hlale, Director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia Turuwak Wakeyo, and high-ranking personages of political parties, governments and parliaments.

S. Korea: Road to True Democracy Still Rocky and Tortuous

It can be said that the political situation in south Korea has entered a new stage since Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo announced on June 29 that they were prepared to accept some democratic reforms, including direct presidential elections.

However, the road to the true democracy will not be an easy one as it is highly unlikely that the Chun junta, which took power by force, will surrender power and implement unconditional democratic reforms in accordance with the desires of the people.

In an attempt to analyse the undercurrents, five Japanese and American experts were invited to take part in a round-table discussion sponsored by The People's Korea in late July.

Here is what they had to say at the discussion presided over by our editor:

The People's Korea (PK): We thank you very much for sparing us some time to take part in this discussion today. It has been said that change is in the air in south Korea, and therefore, I think it is fitting and proper for us to talk about the present south Korean situation. First of all, I would like to invite your comments on the unprecedented large-scale anti-government demonstrations last June which made the south Korean ruling elite publish what they called an eight-point reform plan.

Mr. A: I think that the sudden Roh-Chun maneuver (the stated intention to accept democratic reforms, including direct presidential elections) does not necessarily mean that they are willing to restore democracy to south Korea. I question their sincerity because of their past records. It was obvious that they had to do something drastic in order to defuse mounting anti-government demonstrations and ensure the successful hosting of the Olympics.

Mr. C: Successive south Korean rulers have never shown tolerance towards their opponents. It seems to me that this is the first time that opposition democratic forces have managed to extract a compromise from the rulers. In this respect, this was a victory for the south Korean people who have been yearning for a genuine representative democracy for decades.

Mr. B: I agree with Mr. C. It was an initial victory for south Koreans. But, it is only the beginning. There is no guarantee that Roh Tae Woo will implement the promises he made. In addition, there are still big differences between the government and the opposition over the exact details of the reforms, for example, over the scope of release of political prisoners.

Mr. D: On the whole, I agree with all of you. I would simply add that the June uprising was a democratic revolution. The same people power that swept through the Philippines surfaced in south Korea.

Mr. E: I think we are all in agreement that the Chun junta's about-face was first and foremost an attempt to neutralize south Korean people power. In this context, democratic reforms of any real consequence will only result if the pressure on that government by democratic forces is maintained over the coming months.

PK: I would like to raise two questions. Firstly, what were the major factors in Chun's about-face? He has changed his position on constitutional revision several times and has been adamant in his refusal to allow direct presidential elections to take place. This has been a constant source of his unpopularity. So, what made Chun accept direct presidential elections? Secondly, it has been suggested that middle-class Koreans don't want drastic change and that most of the anti-government protests were by a small number of radical students who have been influenced by north Korea. Many Western papers have echoed this view. However, many middle-class Koreans did not hesitate to join other citizens in the June demonstrations. What made them take to the streets?

Mr. A: I think the June 29 scenario was written by the United States with Roh Tae Woo as the leading actor. Although U.S. officials maintain that the outcome of domestic events in south Korea is beyond their control, the United States held the key to the recent developments.

Mr. B: It may be true that without direct pressure from the U.S., the Chun government is unlikely to be toppled. However, it is important to look at the factors which made the Americans write the present scenario. These was pressure from Washington, particularly from the Senate and Congress, but ultimately it was people power that pressured Chun and Roh to compromise. At the end of the day, history will be made by the south Korean people, not by the United States or anyone else.

Mr. C: I would like to comment on both questions briefly. The June 10 DJP nomination of Roh Tae Woo as a presidential candidate and the police crackdown on a mass rally to mourn for a student killed by police torture triggered the June uprising. However, the major reason for the uprising is that the majority of south Koreans do not want a military dictatorship any more. They have questioned the political legitimacy of the present regime from the outset because of the way the Chun group took power. The June demonstrations were a manifestation of pent-up dissatisfaction with Chun Doo Hwan and his repressive policies. They were inevitable. Of course, middle-class Koreans prefer stability to drastic change. But, they have come to accept that stability will not be achieved until the military dictatorship is replaced by a genuine democratic government. I think the National Coalition for a Democratic Constitution was very significant and played an important role in sponsoring the peace march.

Victory will not be won without an organization to rally the people. This is the first broad based coalition embracing various social strata, including politicians, religious leaders, writers and artists.

Mr. D: Washington's primary concern is south Korea's stability and the strategic interests in south Korea is its top priority. In essence, it is not interested in democratization. In order to stabilize the south Korean government and hold the Olympic Games in Seoul next year, the United States opposed declaring martial law and the mobilization of troops. More important, the United States felt that something should be done to defuse growing anti-Americanism. This is the reason why the Americans pretended that they are on the side of democracy. However, despite their efforts, anti-Americanism does not seem to be waning.

Mr. A: From the government's point of view they had two choices – call in the troops or introduce conciliatory measures. Actually, Chun attempted to use his troops as he did in Kwangju seven years ago. But, military intervention would have ran the risk of triggering fiercer nationwide protest which would have threatened the government and created incalculable obstacles to the staging of the Olympics next year. There was also pressure from Washington. Chun agreed to direct elections under pressure, not voluntarily. If the government is defeated in a presidential election, will they surrender power to the opposition?

Mr. B: The government has restored the political and civil rights of Kim Dae Jung earlier than expected because it wants the opposition to be divided. However, so far Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam have maintained their unity. The government desperately wants to split the anti-government vote in a presidential election.

Mr. E: What we are seeing now is a well devised strategy calculated to stage-manage the situation in south Korea so that the forces of control can remain in power. However, the ruling elite underestimates the extent of the changes that have taken place in south Korea. The middle-class's role in south Korean politics is a new phenomena that heralds the beginning of a period of total dissatisfaction with military rule. From now on conflict will not be restricted to the forces in power and a small dedicated opposition of idealists but will be between the forces of control and the majority of the south Korean people.

PK: Roh seems to have scored a good point with his June 29 drastic compromise proposals. Some people now portray him as a "hero." How do you respond to these observations?

Mr. C: The DJP camp have tried to portray Roh as a "moderate" and a "hero." Consequently, if his recommendations are implemented, he may receive credit for the reforms and become a viable candidate for the presidency. But these attempts to portray him as a "moderate" and a "hero" are unconvincing in view of his past record. Many Koreans still castigate him for his key role he played in helping Chun seize power in 1979 and in putting down the Kwangju demonstrations in a bloodthirsty manner the next year. This event has come to be known as the Kwangju massacre, because at least 2,000 defenseless citizens were killed by troops. (The government claimed that only 200 were killed and this is the figure most often quoted by the Western media.)

Although he threatened to resign both as DJP chairman and presidential nominee if his plans were not accepted, the proposals had almost certainly been approved by Chun in advance.

Mr. E: It is worth bearing in mind that the media in south Korea is vigorously controlled. When this is taken into account, it is not surprising that Roh is being hailed as a "moderate" and a "hero" as this is the very image of him that the government wishes to propagate. However, only a month ago he was being referred to as the "dictator with a wig." His nomination as a presidential candidate sparked off large-scale demonstrations by people who see Roh for what he is, an apprentice dictator. I do not believe that the south Korean people are so fickle that they have changed their attitudes towards Roh on the basis of a few promises. If Roh was to stand against either Kim Dae Jung or Kim Young Sam in an open and fair election then I'm certain he would be a very poor second choice.

Mr. D: I have just come back from Seoul and I would like to say that mistrust in the Chun government runs deep. Dissident figures are questioning whether Chun's DJP truely intends to relinquish power. Roh's proposals have left many south Koreans skeptical, as the government has so persistently refused to implement democratic measures in the past. Some students have already labeled the package of reforms proposed by Roh and endorsed by Chun two days later as a "trick." Roh is no hero in comparison to Kim Dae Jung, who despite being imprisoned by the military, kidnapped, sentenced to death and re-arrested, has always remained a democratic political force.

Mr. C: What is needed is unity among the democratic forces. If Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam make the same mistake they made in the so-called "Spring of Seoul," many south Koreans will never forgive them. They will be remembered as politicians who were only interested in the presidency and not in democracy.

PK: Thank you very much gentlemen for your enlightened opinions. In any event, I think this year and next will be critical in south Korea's struggle towards democracy.

Participants at the round-table talk

Mr. A: An expert on Asian affairs; Ph. D. in political science from an American university.
Mr. B: A free-lance journalist, contributes articles on Korea, China and Japan to newspapers and magazines.
Mr. C: A professor of history at a Japanese university; majors in modern Korean history.
Mr. D: A senior political analyst at a private think tank; majors in international relations.
Mr. E: An American social scientist presently doing research on Korea.

(Continued from page 1)

sion of a peace agreement between the DPRK and the U.S. and for the adoption of a declaration of non-aggression between the north and the south.

At the end of last year, President Kim Il Sung proposed to hold north-south high-level political and military talks. He also proposed to set up a neutral nations inspection force to increase the role of the NNSC.

Washington and Seoul, however, have been increasing and reinforcing arms build-up, parroting "possible southward invasion from the north" before the 1988 Olympic Games and spurning any of the proposals made by Pyongyang.

As for the presence of the 43,000-strong U.S. troops and more than 1,000 nuclear bombs and warheads, it has been said that they are a deterrent to a "possible attack by the far superior north Korean military forces", and are "protectors of south Korea from the threat of communists."

In the past, they have actually made use of these pretexts whenever a demand for U.S. withdrawal was voiced and Pyongyang made any proposal.

The July 23 proposal, however, is such that they will find it impossible to rebuff it so easily. As First Vice Foreign Minister Kang said at the press briefing, there would be no ground or condition for them to totally oppose the proposals, as Washington and Seoul have often called for an equilibrium of military forces as a precondition for U.S. troops withdrawal, and the proposals this time include exactly this problem.

Also notable in the statement of the DPRK government is a proposal to increase the role and authority of the NNSC to ensure the progress of arms reduction. Members of the NNSC were urged to participate as observers in a multinational disarmament negotiation proposed to be held in March 1988.

By increasing the role of the NNSC, verification of arms reduction will be strengthened and the extreme tension around the DMZ will be eased.

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